

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

EDUCATION MINISTER HONOURS LOCAL TEACHER

KELOWNA – Mount Boucherie secondary teacher Lorraine Baron joined Education Minister Shirley Bond in the legislature today for an Education Week ceremony to recognize recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

"Lorraine is a wonderful example of the high calibre of teachers in this province," said Bond. "She has done more than help students understand the complexities of calculus; she's given them the confidence to tackle challenges and valuable research skills."

Baron, an advanced placement math and calculus teacher, was recognized for her success in finding innovative ways to help students and teachers to understand complex methods of calculus. Baron has developed study-guide resources that organize the required concepts of each course in a clear and logical order; she posts learning materials created by herself and students on websites for other teachers and students to reference and encourages students to explore the Internet for resources to be used in the classroom. She uses several different teaching methods to help her students make sense of the math that they are learning.

"We all have at least one teacher who has made a huge impact in our lives and we always remember them," said Okanagan-Westside MLA Rick Thorpe. "Lorraine is one of those teachers who have made a lasting impression on her students and I am pleased she is being recognized for her dedication and love for education."

"Lorraine has a special gift for helping students understand complex mathematical concepts," said Moyra Baxter, chair of the Central Okanagan School board. "In her new position as District Numeracy Co-ordinator she shares her expertise with other teachers as they help students achieve their best."

Over the past seven years, Baron has played an instrumental role in the development of documents for the Ministry of Education with respect to curriculum, instruction and assessment. She was selected to participate as a member of the Grade 10-12 mathematics writing team in 1999 and was the chairperson for the Applications of Mathematics 10 exam specifications committee in 2003-04. In 2005, Baron was invited to the Canadian Mathematics in Education Forum in Toronto. The purpose of the forum was to develop a national ongoing conversation among educators at all levels of schools about important issues and concerns in the development and future of mathematics education in Canada.

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Lorraine Baron is among 14 B.C. educators who received the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. They joined Education Minister Shirley Bond today to honour their achievement as part of Education Week 2007. During Education Week 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell will announce the first-ever recipients of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence.

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